

MAR 08 2019

## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING TO ESTABLISH AN AGRICULTURAL HOUSING TASK FORCE TO STUDY EXISTING COUNTY AND STATE LAWS, RULES, AND PROCESSES TO PLAN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ON-FARM EMPLOYEE HOUSING WITHIN THE STATE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT.

1 WHEREAS, the State has the duty to conserve and protect  
2 agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase  
3 agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the availability of  
4 agriculturally suitable lands; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, the State has made sustainability and self-  
7 sufficiency in agriculture and local food production a priority;  
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, economically safe, sanitary, and affordable on-  
11 farm employee housing is critical for working farms to attract  
12 and retain long-term and short-term farm workers; and

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14 WHEREAS, existing laws governing construction of such on-  
15 farm employee housing are complicated and confusing and vary  
16 across the State; and

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18 WHEREAS, on-farm housing must comply with different layers  
19 of regulations at the federal level and laws and rules at the  
20 state and county levels; and

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22 WHEREAS, many of the laws and rules governing construction  
23 of traditional residential housing units are ill-suited to the  
24 demands and economic realities of working farms; and

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26 WHEREAS, these existing laws, rules, and processes preclude  
27 farms from providing safe, sanitary, and affordable on-farm  
28 employee housing to attract and retain farm workers, and stand  
29 as an obstacle to the State's agricultural self-sufficiency;  
30 now, therefore,

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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
33 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the Office



1 of Planning is requested to establish an agricultural housing  
2 task force to analyze and provide recommendations that would  
3 streamline existing laws, rules, and processes to plan for the  
4 construction of safe, sanitary, and affordable on-farm employee  
5 housing within the state agricultural district and on farms that  
6 are engaged in agricultural production; and  
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agricultural housing task  
9 force is requested to have the following objectives:  
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- 11 (1) Study existing county and state laws, rules, and  
12 processes for the construction of employee housing  
13 within the state agricultural district across the  
14 State;  
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- 16 (2) Identify existing barriers in laws, rules, and  
17 processes that prohibit the construction of safe,  
18 sanitary, and affordable on-farm employee housing for  
19 farmworkers, including mobile units for temporary and  
20 seasonal farmworkers;  
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- 22 (3) Give special consideration to modular housing as a  
23 solution;  
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- 25 (4) Create a separate legal designation, as it relates to  
26 zoning, for homes with a permanent foundation and  
27 modular homes without a permanent foundation;  
28
- 29 (5) Make recommendations for changes to existing state and  
30 county laws, rules, and processes as necessary; and  
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- 32 (6) Propose one master use application process, as well as  
33 laws and rules that can be applied consistently  
34 throughout the State for the construction of safe,  
35 sanitary, and affordable on-farm employee housing for  
36 farmworkers, including mobile units for temporary and  
37 seasonal farm workers; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agricultural housing task  
40 force is requested to consist of the following:  
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- (1) The Director of the Office of Planning or the Director's designee, who is requested to serve as chairperson;
- (2) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture or the Chairperson's designee;
- (3) The Deputy Director of the Department of Health's Environmental Health Administration or the Deputy Director's designee;
- (4) The Chairperson of the Land Use Commission or the Chairperson's designee;
- (5) One representative member from each of the several counties' zoning and planning departments;
- (6) Two representative members from an agricultural or farming association, to be selected by the Director of the Office of Planning; and
- (7) One representative member from a public interest organization with a focus on housing issues, to be selected by the Director of the Office of Planning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the agricultural housing task force is requested to:

- (1) Submit a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021, including a discussion of the task force's objectives;
- (2) Prepare and submit to the Legislature a draft guide explaining the existing process for, and the laws and rules relating to, approval of employee housing in the state agricultural district across the State, including county and local ordinances that pertain to each locality for the public's understanding and



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benefit, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2022; and

- (3) Submit a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Office of Planning is requested to provide administrative and clerical support to the agricultural housing task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Office of Planning; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Deputy Director of the Department of Health's Environmental Health Administration; Chairperson of the Land Use Commission; and mayors of the several counties.

OFFERED BY:

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